



**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

<b>Policy #:</b>	<b>1408</b>	
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulators for Chronic Pain</b>	
<b>Section:</b>	<b>Care Management</b>	
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>12/01/2014</b>	
<b>Revision Date(s):</b>	<b>10/15</b>	
<b>Review Date(s):</b>	<b>10/16</b>	
<b>Responsible Parties:</b>	<b>Patryce Toye, MD</b>	
<b>Responsible Department(s):</b>	<b>Utilization Management</b>	
<b>Regulatory References:</b>		
<b>Approved:</b>		
	<b>Carol Attia, RN AVP, Care Management</b>	<b>Patryce A. Toye, MD Senior Medical Director</b>

**Purpose:** It is the purpose of this policy to define the conditions under which TENS units will be authorized.

**Scope:** MedStar Family Choice, MD; MedStar Family Choice, District of Columbia Healthy Families and Alliance.

**Policy:** It is the policy of MedStar Family Choice to provide TENS units to appropriate members as a DME benefit through participating DME providers.

**Background:** MedStar Family Choice will require prior authorization for TENS units.

**Procedure:**

1. Requests for TENS unit should be forwarded along with the supporting clinical information in accordance with the MedStar Family Choice Prior Authorization Policy.

**Indications:**

1. TENS units may be authorized by the Pre-Certification Nurse when **ALL** of the following conditions have been met:
  - The member's pain is chronic in nature.

- The member has been in Pain Management for at least 3 months.
- The TENS unit is ordered by a Pain Management physician.
- The member has had a trial of the TENS unit in Physical Therapy with documented improvement in pain.

2. If a request for a TENS unit does not meet the criteria above, the Pre-Certification Nurse will forward the request to the Physician Advisor for individual review and consideration.

<b>Summary of Changes:</b>	<p><b>10/16:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant changes</li> </ul> <p><b>10/15:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nurse can now approve if trial of TENS at PT</li> </ul>
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